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GDNF administration induces recovery of the nigrostriatal dopaminergic system both in young and aged parkinsonian mice

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Glial cell line-derived neurotrophic factor (GDNF) is a member of the transforming growth factor beta superfamily and acts as a neurotrophic factor for the nigro-dopaminergic system. GDNF was injected stereotactically into the striatum of 6 months old and aged (12 months old) C57BL/6 mice that were treated with 4-phenyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridine (MPTP) 1 week earlier. Immunocytochemical analyses showed significant recovery of the nigrostriatal dopaminergic system both in young and in aged mice. Since Parkinson's disease is a neurodegenerative disorder mainly affecting elderly people, this result demonstrates the potential usefulness of GDNF in treating Parkinson's disease.

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